

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the adverse effects of a fire, in which method smoke and combustion gases are removed from a space by spraying through at least one first spray head (2) a mist of a medium into a duct part (1) leading away from the space so as to generate a suction from the space into the duct near ~~the~~ an orifice (4) of the duct (1), characterized in that, in a first step, the first spray head (2) is activated and, ~~when necessary~~, a connection is opened from the space into the duct part (1) via the orifice (4) of the duct part by opening a shutter element (5) and, in a second step, the connection from the space into the duct part (1) is closed by means of the shutter element (5) at least when the temperature of the combustion gases and/or smoke exceeds a predetermined value in the duct part or in its vicinity and, ~~when necessary~~, the spraying through the first spray head (2) in the duct part (1) is stopped.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that, in the next step, fire extinguishing medium is sprayed through at least one second spray head (21) into the space into which the orifice (4) of the duct has been open.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the operation of the shutter element (5) is linked to the operation of the first spray head (2) in such a way that the passage through the orifice (4) of the duct part (1) into the duct part is open at least when the first spray head (2) is in the activated state, and that the passage is closed by the shutter element (5) ~~typically~~ when the supply of medium to the first spray head (2) is stopped.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the temperature of the combustion gases is monitored, typically using a heat sensitive element, such as an ampoule (20), and when the temperature exceeds a set value, the passage (18) of the medium to the first spray head and/or to ~~the an~~ actuator (6) of the shutter element is closed on the basis of an impulse obtained from said heat sensitive element, e.g. when the am-poule bursts.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the shutter element (5) is moved into an open position, in which a connection is provided between the space and the duct part via the orifice (4) when the force produced by the pressure of the medium exceeds the force of a counter-element (11), especially a spring element, and the shutter element (5) is moved into a closed position, in which the connection via the orifice (4) into the duct element is closed, when the force produced by the pressure of the medium falls below the force of the counter-element (11), especially a spring element.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing the adverse effects of a fire, said apparatus comprising at least one first spray head which, when activated, has been arranged to spray a mist of a medium in a duct part (1) leading out of a space so that in the vicinity of ~~the an~~ orifice (4) of the duct (1) a suction from the space into the duct (1) is created, characterized in that the apparatus comprises at least one shutter element (5) placed in conjunction with the orifice (4) of the duct and movable between at least two positions, of which a first position is an open position, in which the passage through the orifice of the duct

into the duct is open, and a second position is a closed position, in which the passage through the orifice of the duct into the duct is closed, and an actuating mechanism (6) for operating the shutter element.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the actuating mechanism (6) operating the shutter element (5) comprises a cylinder-piston combination.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the actuator (6) of the shutter element (5) is functionally connected to the supply of medium to the at least one first spray head (2).

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the apparatus further comprises a temperature monitoring device (20) and that, based on an impulse obtained from this device, the shutter element (5) is moved to the second position, the closed position, when necessary.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the apparatus further comprises at least one second spray head (21), which has been fitted to spray fire extinguishing medium in the space, preferably in the vicinity of the orifice of the duct (1), at least on the basis of the an impulse given by the an temperature monitoring device (20).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the temperature monitoring device (20) is an ampoule designed to burst at a given temperature, as a result of the bursting of which ampoule a valve element (27) opens a passage (25) for the fire extinguishing medium to the second spray head (21) and/or causes a second valve element (16) to move so as to close the passage (18) to the at least one first spray head (2) and/or to the actuator (6) of the shutter element.